

App. No. 10/607,828
Amendment Dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus that includes an antenna and a pass-through interface device, comprising:

a pass-through interface body that is configured to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port;

an antenna housing that is configured to enclose the antenna;

connecting members that are arranged to couple the antenna housing to the pass-through interface body; and

a blocking member, wherein the blocking member is arranged to block the first port in the pass-through interface device when the antenna housing is in a first position, and wherein the blocking member is clear from the first port when the antenna housing is in a second position.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the antenna housing is arranged in longitudinal alignment with the pass-through interface body when the antenna housing is in the first position.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the antenna housing is arranged in longitudinal alignment with the pass-through interface body when the antenna housing is in the first position such that the antenna housing is oriented in a first plane, and wherein the antenna housing is oriented in a second plane that intersects with the first plane when the antenna housing is in the second position.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the connecting members are arranged in cooperation with the pass-through interface body such that the antenna housing is biased towards the first position.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the blocking member is arranged to substantially maintain the shape of the antenna within the antenna housing.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the connecting members, the pass-through interface body, and the antenna housing are integrally formed from at least one of: rubber, plastic, and an elastomer.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the antenna housing and the blocking member are integrally formed from at least one of: rubber, plastic, and an elastomer.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the antenna housing and the connecting members are integrally formed from at least one of: rubber, plastic, and an elastomer.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the connecting members and the pass-through interface body are integrally formed from at least one of: rubber, plastic, and an elastomer.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the connecting members are arranged as shoulders between the pass-through interface body and the antenna housing.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the connecting members are coupled to the pass-through interface body through pivot joints.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein each pivot joint is arranged as at least one of: a pin device, and a ball and socket arrangement.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein at least one pivot joint includes a spring tension device that is arranged to bias the antenna housing from the second position to the first position.

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14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein at least the connecting member includes a flange region that is arranged [in] for engagement with the pass-through interface body such that the antenna housing is biased from the second position to the first position.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein at least the connecting member includes a flange region, and wherein the pass-through interface body includes a first locking member that is arranged to engage the flange region such that the antenna housing is locked in the first position.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein at least the connecting member includes a flange region, and wherein the pass-through interface body includes a second locking member that is arranged to engage the flange region such that the antenna housing is locked in the second position.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the antenna housing is urged from the first position to the second position by user interaction, and wherein the antenna housing is maintained in the second position by contact between the blocking member and a connector when the connector is engaged with the pass-through interface device.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the antenna housing automatically returns from the second position to the first position when the connector is disengaged from the pass-through interface device.

19. (Original) An apparatus that includes an antenna and a pass-through interface device, comprising:

a first means for enclosing that is arranged to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port;

a second means for enclosing that is arranged to enclose the antenna;

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a means for coupling that is arranged to couple the first means for enclosing to the second means for enclosing;

a means for blocking that is arranged to block the first port when the first port is disengaged from operation; and

a means for orienting that is arranged to maintain the orientation of the antenna away from the first port when the first port is engaged in operation.

20. (Currently amended) A method for automatic orientation of an antenna and a pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port, the method comprising:

enclosing the antenna in an antenna housing;

enclosing the pass-through interface device in a pass-through interface body;

coupling the antenna housing to the pass-through interface body;

blocking the first port when the antenna housing is longitudinally aligned with the pass-through interface body in a first position;

urging the antenna housing from the first position to a second position such that the first port is accessible;

maintaining the antenna housing in the second position when the first port is engaged in operation; and

returning the antenna housing from the second position to the first position when the first port is disengaged [from] from operation.

21. (New) An apparatus that includes an antenna and a pass-through interface device, comprising:

a pass-through interface body that is configured to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port;

an antenna housing that is configured to enclose the antenna;

connecting members that are arranged to couple the antenna housing to the pass-through interface body, wherein the connecting members are arranged in cooperation with the

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pass-through interface body such that the antenna housing is biased towards the first position;
and

a blocking member, wherein the blocking member is arranged to block the first port in the pass-through interface device when the antenna housing is in a first position, and wherein the blocking member is clear from the first port when the antenna housing is in a second position.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising: an urging device, wherein the urging device is coupled to the pass-through interface body and the blocking member, and wherein the urging device is arranged to urge the blocking member into alignment with the first port of the pass-through interface body.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the urging device is integrally formed with at least the antenna housing, the connecting member, the pass-through interface body, and the blocking member.

24. (New) An apparatus that includes an antenna and a pass-through interface device, comprising:

a first means for enclosing that is arranged to enclose the pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device includes a first port that is in electrical communication with a second port;

a second means for enclosing that is arranged to enclose the antenna;

a coupling means that is arranged to couple the first means for enclosing to the second means for enclosing;

a means for blocking that is arranged to block the first port when the first port is disengaged from operation;

a biasing means that is arranged to bias the means for blocking in alignment with the first port; and

a means for orienting that is arranged to maintain the orientation of the antenna away from the first port when the first port is engaged in operation.

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25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the biasing means is integrally formed with at least: the first means for enclosing, the second means for enclosing, the coupling means, the means for blocking, and the means for orienting.

26. (New) An apparatus that includes an antenna and a pass-through interface device, wherein the pass-through interface device permits electrical communication between a primary electronic device and a second electronic device, the apparatus comprising:

a pass-through interface body that is configured to enclose the pass-through interface device;

an antenna housing that is coupled to the pass-through interface body, wherein the antenna housing is configured to enclose the antenna;

a first port in the pass-through interface body, wherein the first port is arranged for operative engagement with the primary electronic device;

a second port in the pass-through interface body, wherein the first port is in operative communication with the second port, and wherein the second port is arranged for operative engagement with the secondary electronic device; and

a blocking member that is coupled to at least one of the pass-through interface body and the antenna housing, wherein the blocking member is arranged to cover the second port when the secondary electronic device is disengaged from the second port.